

STAT

April 8, 1952.

Re: International Rescue Committee

Dear Allen:

You were kind enough to offer to push for immediate action in allocation of State Department funds for rescue work. The contact point appears to be Mr. George Warren of the Department of State. If you can induce prompt interim action, it will help.

What the State Department actually has in mind I ~~can~~ ^{do} not ~~make out~~. Two trustworthy witnesses--Goodheart, High Commissioner for Refugees of the United Nations, and Roland Eliot of the Church World Service--quote Warren as saying that the State Department proposes to recruit a sizeable staff and do the work directly--reception of refugees, emergency relief and resettlement.

Friends in the National Catholic Welfare Conference report that Warren, as late as last Wednesday, said the State Department proposed to do only supervisory relief.

All sources state that the Department discloses no plans for present action but indicates a feeling that nothing could be done until Dawson of the State Department has gone to Europe to make a survey; this would mean no action before next Fall.

The one certain thing I get out of this is that nothing will be done by anybody about anything unless very vigorous action is taken. We are going to the public to get some funds for the Rescue Committee but it is difficult in view of the general understanding that the government is taking over. The Ford Foundation has withdrawn on the ground that the government policy is confused--its contemplated

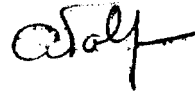
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action under the policy is in doubt.

Other agencies will have their own ideas. My suggestion would be an interim allocation of funds of which International Rescue Committee, at present loads, could use \$200,000 to handle the loads whichever way the government finally decides.

Thank you for your intervention. You at least know that the refugees keep on coming across the border, and they can not wait six months for their next meal.

Faithfully,



A. A. Berle, Jr.

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M E M O R A N D U M

International Rescue Committee.

1. Enough funds are now available to carry the International Rescue Committee through the month of April, 1952. But, unless substantial additional sums are available immediately, plans for liquidation of the International Rescue Committee must be carried out.

2. This, in spite of the fact that on Monday, March 24th, President Truman filed a directive for the expenditure of over \$4,000,000. for the assistance of refugees from behind the Iron Curtain; and on Tuesday, March 25th, the President asked Congress for legislation to assist refugees from Communism.

Publicity attending the President's statement indicating availability of these funds makes it extremely difficult for the International Rescue Committee to raise money at the present time to meet its current needs. Private individuals, business corporations and philanthropic institutions are loath to contribute money for a purpose for which government funds have publicly been allocated.

3. Requests for information as to what specific plans the government has for the use of these funds to assist refugees from Communism have produced confused and varying reports. The only clear fact is that it will probably be some time before the government will be ready to indicate with any degree of finality how it actually plans to use this money. Meanwhile, an average of 1,000 persons per month are now escaping and presumably in need. The disposition

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of the government funds lies in the office of Mr. George L. Warren, Advisor on Refugees, U.S. Department of State.

4. The fact that the State Department has so far not indicated its plans in relation to the allocation has already meant the refusal of applications submitted by the International Rescue Committee and other agencies to the largest philanthropic institution in America (Ford Foundation) which is not prepared to go into this field until the government's plans become more specific.

5. If the government plans to operate a relief program with its own personnel in the field, itself handling the reception, emergency assistance and resettlement for Iron Curtain refugees, the International Rescue Committee must stand ready to liquidate its operations. But it ought to carry the situation until it can be passed to the new agency.

Certain minimum commitments to the refugees who now depend on the International Rescue Committee must be met. Many hundreds of refugees are being given supplemental maintenance assistance in Europe by our staff. Assurances are pending with the DPC and the Consular service for 607 refugees from behind the Iron Curtain and their families who are now awaiting transportation to the United States. In addition, 352 refugee professionals from behind the Iron Curtain are in the United States now, relying on the International Rescue Committee for job placement. These human beings must be taken care of either by complete solution of their personal needs or by turning them over to other agencies. They cannot be abandoned.

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It is estimated that three months will be required for orderly liquidation in the contingency that the government assumes complete responsibility for our present case load. The best estimate of the costs of such liquidation, involving the meeting of the commitments detailed above, are as follows:

May	\$27,600.
June	27,600.
July	49,600.
	27,600.
	22,000.-Cost of
	severance pay, terminal vacation
	pay and return passage for overseas
	staff.

This would make a total of \$104,800.

It is practically impossible to raise money from contributors for the purpose of liquidating.

6. If, however, the government plans to enter the field of relief to Iron Curtain refugees only in a supervisory and coordinating capacity and if, further, these plans involve a survey and a consequent delay of four to six months, then the International Rescue Committee, during this interim period, must attempt to continue operations not only to take care of as much of the problem as they can, before these plans are crystallized, but also to be ready to contribute its share toward the ultimate overall solution. A minimum budget of \$50,000. per month is necessary if the International Rescue Committee is to carry on a program anywhere near its current operations.

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7. The necessity is for interim allocation of funds while the government is making up its mind. A fair request would be \$200,000. for that purpose, either to carry the load towards an eventual government agency or to fill in until the State Department implements some other policy.

A.A.B., Jr.